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440 First St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20001-2080

www.naco.org

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Contact: Jeremy Ratner

202-942-4220

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jratner@naco.org

NACo, Fannie Mae Foundation Launch National Partnership to Address Housing Crisis

Phoenix, AZ – The National Association of Counties (NACo) and the Fannie Mae Foundation signed a historic national partnership agreement today bringing the two organizations together to address the housing accessibility and affordability challenges facing millions of Americans.

Through this partnership, NACo and the Foundation will: conduct regional forums to address regional needs to increase housing and home ownership; conduct joint research and educational activities; develop and disseminate joint research, educational, and technical assistance materials; focus on closing the minority home ownership gap (minorities own homes at persistently lower levels); highlight successful partnerships developed between business and county leaders; and develop joint or co-branded publications promoting the market potential of mid-size and rural communities.

As the first step towards achieving their objectives, the partners announced they will be forming a Sustainable Housing Council comprised of NACo and Foundation leaders, and key housing stakeholders to advise the effort and lend expertise.

The partnership was announced by Fannie Mae Foundation President and Chief Executive Officer Stacey Davis Stewart during the closing General Session of NACo's 69th Annual Conference and Exposition. The agreement was signed at an event launching incoming NACo President, Lake County, Ill. Commissioner Angelo Kyle's national housing initiative that featured representatives of police, firemen, and other first responders. Assuring quality housing for first responders is a key component of the Kyle initiative and the new partnership.

Addressing attendees at the initiative launch, President Kyle described the reasoning behind the partnership. "County officials and the Fannie Mae Foundation both have a major responsibility for assuring that quality housing is available to all Americans. As NACo launches its national housing initiative, we could not be more pleased to be joined as full partners in this effort by the Fannie Mae Foundation. With their participation, and that of Freddie Mac, the National Association of Home Builders, National Association of REALTORS®, Bielski, Bank of America, and our first responders, we are poised to make real headway in the coming year."

"The Fannie Mae Foundation's partnership with NACo is not just about building affordable homes. It's about building vibrant communities—and prosperous counties," said Stacey D. Stewart, President and CEO of the Fannie Mae Foundation. "An affordable homes strategy is a strategy for economic revitalization."

The National Association of Counties (NACo) is a full-service organization that provides legislative, research, technical and public affairs assistance to county governments. Created in 1935, NACo continues to ensure that the nation's 3,066 counties are heard and understood in the White House and Congress.

The Fannie Mae Foundation creates affordable homeownership and housing opportunities through innovative partnerships and initiatives that build healthy, vibrant communities across the United States. The Foundation is specially committed to improving the quality of life for people of its hometown, Washington, D.C., and to enhancing the livability of the city's neighborhoods. The Foundation is a private nonprofit organization whose sole source of support is Fannie Mae. For more information on the Foundation, please visit www.fanniemaefoundation.org.

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